

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. ***(original)*** An oligonucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 15 successive nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence consisting of nucleotides 6-44 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. ***(original)*** An oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which specifically hybridizes to a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 15 successive nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence consisting of nucleotides 6-44 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. ***(currently amended)*** The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein at least one internucleotide bond is a phosphorothioate bond.

4. ***(currently amended)*** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the oligonucleotide according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, and a pharmaceutically ~~or~~ ~~veterinarily~~ acceptable carrier or diluent.

5. ***(currently amended)*** An anti-HIV agent comprising ~~as an active ingredient~~ the oligonucleotide according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~.

6. ***(currently amended)*** A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing HIV, comprising the oligonucleotide according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, and a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier or diluent.

7. ***(currently amended)*** A method for treating or preventing HIV, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the oligonucleotide according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ in an amount effective therefor.

8. *(cancelled)*
9. *(new)* The oligonucleotide according to claim 2, wherein at least one internucleotide bond is a phosphorothioate bond.
10. *(new)* A pharmaceutical composition comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
11. *(new)* A pharmaceutical composition comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
12. *(new)* An anti-HIV agent comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 2.
13. *(new)* An anti-HIV agent comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 3.
14. *(new)* A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing HIV, comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
15. *(new)* A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing HIV, comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
16. *(new)* A method for treating or preventing HIV, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the oligonucleotide according to claim 2 in an amount effective therefor.
17. *(new)* A method for treating or preventing HIV, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the oligonucleotide according to claim 3 in an amount effective therefor.